

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers

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Whole No. 531

## TRUE FRIENDS

By Steve Press



### DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 203

#### SERIES OF SEA TALES

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from the Frank Merriwell stories of Burt L. Standish.

**TRUE FRIENDS**



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## TRUE FRIENDS

a play for young people adapted from the Frank Merriwell stories of  
Burt L. Standish

By Steve Press

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Cast in order of appearance

FRANK MERRIWELL  
BUCK BADGER  
BART HODGE  
JACK DIAMOND

HARRY RATTLETON  
BRUCE BROWNING  
INZA BURRAGE  
ELSIE BELLWOOD

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The time is now.

The place: A school gymnasium.

The houselights go down and suddenly from the back of the theater six boys in gym suits come running down the aisles. They have footballs and basketballs, and they are yelling and throwing the balls back and forth and generally enjoying themselves. The boys are FRANK MERRIWELL, BART HODGE, BUCK BADGER, JACK DIAMOND, HARRY RATTLETON, and BRUCE BROWNING.

The BOYS run up onto the stage and pull the curtain open as though it is a gym activity. There are several mats on the floor and there is other gym equipment scattered around.

FRANK MERRIWELL starts working out alone. The other boys get into an argument.

JACK DIAMOND: How much you want to bet?

BRUCE BROWNING: Anything you want! You name it! I say Babe Ruth hit more long hits than anyone else.

JACK: It was not. It was Roger Maris!

BRUCE: Just because he hit more home runs doesn't mean he got more long hits. It was Ruth! I know it!

JACK: I tell you it was Roger Maris.

HARRY RATTLETON: This arguing isn't going to get you anyplace. Why not ask Frank? He usually knows this stuff.

BART HODGE: Yeah, ask Merriwell. Let's settle this!

JACK: I'm willing.

BRUCE: Sure!

BUCK BADGER: Aww, you guys always think Frank Merriwell knows everything about sports.

HARRY: Well, who do you think it was, Badger?

BUCK: Huh? Oh, it was, uh, I forget. I'll tell you later.

HARRY: Yeah, after you look it up. Let's ask Merriwell and settle it.

(The BOYS go over to FRANK)

BRUCE: Hey, Frank. Who holds the record for getting the most long hits in the major leagues?

JACK: It was Maris, wasn't it?

BRUCE: Tell him it was Babe Ruth.

BUCK BADGER: You don't know, Merriwell; tell them to look it up.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Look it up? What for? It's Stan Musial. He hit one thousand, three hundred and seventy-seven while Ruth hit one thousand, three hundred and fifty-six.

BRUCE: Ruth was second! I was almost right!

JACK: So what! "Almost" isn't good enough! No matter what game you play! Right, Frank?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Well, there can only be one winner, but "almost" means you tried and that's pretty good in my book.

BUCK BADGER: Not in mine. It's winning that counts!

HARRY: So Musial hit more than Ruth. Gee, I always thought Babe Ruth was the greatest.

FRANK MERRIWELL: He was.

(a Girl's voice is heard from off-stage)

GIRL'S VOICE: I disagree.

(Enter INZA BURRAGE and ELSIE BELLWOOD, two pretty classmates of the BOYS)

INZA: (Continuing talking) Babe Ruth wasn't the greatest.

HARRY: Well, here's the expert!

BART HODGE: Miss Baseball herself!

ELSIE: I agree with Frank. Ruth was a great home run hitter and so he was the greatest.

INZA: Ty Cobb was better. For twenty-three seasons in a row he batted over three hundred. He had a lifetime batting average of .368. He led the American League in batting twelve times—nine of those in a row. He is the only player to get over four thousand hits. He stole eight hundred and ninety-two bases—getting ninety-six in one season alone and he played in over three thousand games!

(ALL the BOYS are stunned by INZA's glib statement)

ELSIE: What about all of Ruth's home runs?

INZA: Home runs are exciting and showy but it's the all around player like Ty Cobb, or Joe DiMaggio, or Willie Mays who makes for real greatness.

FRANK MERRIWELL: You know, I think I agree with Inza.

BUCK BADGER: Well, I don't! Elsie's right! It's home runs that count. It's who can hit the ball the furthest that's important. And that's why this school doesn't have the best teams in the league. We don't use our best men.

BART HODGE: Sure we do! What are you talking about, Badger?

BUCK BADGER: I'm the best jumper in the school and Merriwell's jumping in the meet next week—not me!

FRANK MERRIWELL: This has all been decided by the coach. I don't think we have to go over it again. I've got more work to do.

(FRANK goes back to working out)

BADGER: (To the others as he walks away) You see the way he changed the subject? He's afraid! He's afraid I'll show him up!

(BUCK starts working out at the opposite side of the stage)

JACK DIAMOND: (To FRANK) You shouldn't let him get away with saying things like that, Frank.

FRANK MERRIWELL: It doesn't matter. I can't see any use in getting angry about what someone says if it's silly nonsense to begin with.

BART HODGE: I agree with Jack. You should do something about it!

HARRY RATTLETON: That's what I say!

BRUCE BROWNING: Me too!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Well, I'm not going to! I don't have to prove myself to anyone! Now, I should be concentrating on my workout and not talking, and so should you fellows.

(The BOYS move upstage center. They look sad and are grumbling to themselves. ELSIE and INZA, who were listening, stay around FRANK)

And you two girls better get to class.

ELSIE: You shouldn't treat your friends like that, Frank.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Like what?

ELSIE: You know—like you don't care. You're a sort of popular hero here and you'll remain so just as long as you show yourself superior to anyone who tries to defeat you. If you don't, your friends will turn against you. It's always that way. A popular hero must never show any weakness.

FRANK MERRIWELL: I don't think my friends are like that.

ELSIE: If you believe that, you'd better not give them the chance or you'll be sadly disillusioned.



FRANK MERRIWELL: Do you mean to tell me that Bart Hodge, Jack Diamond, Harry Rattleton and Bruce Browning would be less friends of mine if I were not a good athlete?

ELSIE: You've placed yourself on top and you must stay there at any cost, if you want to hold your friends.

FRANK MERRIWELL: (To INZA) Do you think what Elsie says is true, Inza?

INZA: I don't know. I guess some people are like that. Everyone likes a hero, that's for sure!

FRANK MERRIWELL: (FRANK is disturbed) Yes . . .

INZA: Come on, Elsie, we'd better get back to class.

FRANK MERRIWELL: What are you girls doing in the gym anyway?

INZA: Looking it over for the costume party on Friday!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Costume party! I wish you wouldn't keep thinking up these silly ideas for parties. Just a good band and plenty of food is what I like! And besides, I'll never be able to find a costume!

INZA: Don't worry, you'll think of something. Let's go, Elsie.

(INZA and ELSIE exit quickly. BART, JACK, HARRY, and BRUCE are still working out. BUCK BADGER is doing push-ups, etc., by himself)

FRANK MERRIWELL: (To himself as he looks over at BART, JACK, HARRY, and BRUCE)

I wonder if Elsie is right. The fellows did act strangely when I said I wouldn't compete against Badger. It might be a good idea to test them. I'm sure they would remain my friends if I lose but it might be interesting to find out who are my true friends!

(FRANK walks over to BADGER and talks very loudly)

Say, Badger, I've been thinking over what you said about your being the best jumper in the school. I'll try you for a whirl in the broad jump. What do you say?

(The OTHERS have heard and THEY move around FRANK and BADGER)

BADGER: Well, I'm hardly in condition for a test just now.

JACK DIAMOND: Go ahead, Badger, you said you could do it!

HARRY RATTLETON: Sure, let's see you try!

BRUCE BROWNING: You asked Frank for the chance and now he's giving it to you.

BART HODGE: Are you afraid?

BADGER: Huh? No, I'm not afraid! O.K. I'll jump with you!

JACK: Great! Let's get the mats set.

(JACK and BART push the mats into place and BUCK moves to the jumping position)

HARRY: (To FRANK) You've got a snap, Frank.

FRANK MERRIWELL: (Doubtfully) Can't always tell about these things.

BRUCE BROWNING: Well, look at him. He's too fat to jump!

FRANK MERRIWELL: He's all muscle as far as I can see.

BADGER: I'm ready.

FRANK MERRIWELL: I am too.

(BADGER jumps as hard as he can)

JACK DIAMOND: Eighteen feet and seven inches!

BRUCE: (To FRANK) Ha! That's his best and you can beat it by two feet, Frank, without half trying!

(FRANK looks worried. He gets ready; then jumps—seemingly with great effort)

HARRY: How is it?

JACK: (Unbelieving) Badger's beaten Frank by over a foot!

(ALL are amazed)

HARRY: (To FRANK) What's the matter? Are you sick?

FRANK MERRIWELL: No, I feel fine.

BRUCE: You must be sick! You let that thing beat you!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Yes, he beat me. I didn't think he could do it.

HARRY: You can jump better than that! I tell you that you must be sick!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Never felt better **physically** in all my life.

BART: (Disgusted) Oh, you're swell!

FRANK MERRIWELL: (Hurt) Thank you.

BART: Why, I've known you to jump something like twenty-one feet!

FRANK MERRIWELL: I must have been in better condition.

BART: Well, I never expected to see you beaten by that boasting cow.

JACK: You've disappointed us, Merriwell!

FRANK MERRIWELL: I'm sorry.

JACK: That doesn't help it! Why didn't you beat that punk!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Why, you know any man must fail sometime. There never was a man so good that some other man was not just as good.

BRUCE: Badger will be bragging about this from now till doomsday!

(BADGER saunters over)

BADGER: Well, Merriwell, that was a very nice jump. Yes, sir! Not as good as mine of course, but good. How about if I give you another try?

FRANK MERRIWELL: I, I don't believe I will.

BART: You're not going to refuse, are you?

HARRY: Go ahead, Frank, take the starch out of him! You can do it!

FRANK MERRIWELL: I'm beaten.

BADGER: Well, anytime, Merriwell. Now, I've more work to do!

(BADGER starts working out. ALL the others are staring sadly at FRANK)

HARRY: You're done for, Frank.

FRANK MERRIWELL: What do you mean?

HARRY: I mean that somebody will take your place as a leader here. And it's going to be Badger!

FRANK MERRIWELL: (Making believe he's angry) We'll see whether Badger is so much!

(FRANK charges over to BADGER)

All right! You're good as a jumper, but you're not the best man! I'll go you one fall at wrestling!

BART: Go him, Badger, you have him on the run, and you can keep it up!

BRUCE: Yeah! Floor him, Badger, and floor him quick!

BADGER: You bet I will!

(The BOYS form a ring around the mats)

(FRANK and BADGER square off, circle briefly, then suddenly BADGER lunges at FRANK. THEY struggle, then FRANK goes down and BADGER quickly pins him to the mat)

JACK: (Hitting the mat as he counts off the numbers) One! Two! Three!

BART: Badger did it! He won!

(BADGER stands up panting and triumphant while FRANK gathers himself together slowly as if dazed)

BRUCE: That was beautiful, Badger!

HARRY: I never saw anything like it before!



(The BOYS crowd around BADGER and then lift him to their shoulders)

JACK: What a fighter!

BART: What an athlete!

BADGER: (To FRANK who has been quietly watching) Want to try again, Merriwell?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Not now . . . maybe tomorrow . . . or some other time . . .

BADGER: Any time, Merriwell, any time!

(The BOYS, cheering, carry BADGER off)

(FRANK is alone)

FRANK MERRIWELL: (Sadly) Well, there are true friends and false.

(Enter INZA. SHE is carrying a box)

INZA: Frank?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Oh, hi, Inza.

INZA: What happened? Why are the boys cheering Buck Badger?

FRANK MERRIWELL: It begins to look like Elsie spoke the truth before.

INZA: Badger defeated you?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Completely.

INZA: And the boys have gone off with him?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Yes.

INZA: You're testing them, aren't you, Frank?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Oh, why, no, I . . .

INZA: You can't lie to me, Frank Merriwell. I know you too well!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Yes, I tested them. And they failed the test! They turned against me just like that!

(HE snaps his fingers)

INZA: Well, I'm not willing to believe they've really run out on you.

FRANK MERRIWELL: (Angry) Then where are they? When I pitched the baseball team to the pennant I was hailed as a great hero. And when I battled for the school on the gridiron and went in and saved the day in direct defiance to the doctor's orders I was the hero of the hour. But now the hour has past. I'm forgotten. The admiration and gratitude of a human being cannot be relied on! The hero of today will be forgotten tomorrow. The mob yells itself hoarse over a hero today, but turns from him in scorn tomorrow on finding that he is only human!

INZA: I have an idea. Will you do as I ask? Will you give them another chance?

FRANK: Yes, I'm willing to, but . . .

INZA: No buts! You said yes! Here, put this on.

(INZA quickly opens the box that she has been holding. SHE holds up and displays the contents: a wild, hippie costume!)

FRANK MERRIWELL: What's that?

INZA: The costume I wanted you to wear to the party!

FRANK MERRIWELL: (Taking and holding up the costume) What do you want me to do with this?

INZA: Test them again.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Huh?

INZA: What would happen if some wild, crazy hippie should come on the scene and beat Buck Badger?

FRANK MERRIWELL: I get it! It's a great idea! Do you think I can pull it off without them recognizing me?

INZA: If you play it real cool, cat.

FRANK MERRIWELL: I'll do it! I'll go put it on. They should be coming back here any second. Keep them here till I come back—as Flower Power from Greenwich Village!

(FRANK runs off with the costume)

(The BOYS come back on. THEY are still carrying BADGER on their shoulders. THEY are singing and cheering. THEY enter by coming down the theater auditorium aisle. THEY come up onto the stage and circle around INZA a couple of times)

INZA: What's going on?

HARRY: Badger's beaten Frank!

INZA: Is that important?

BADGER: Sure it is! It shows that Frank Merriwell is just like anybody else!

INZA: Of course he is. Just like you, Buck, and just like the rest.

BART: We thought he couldn't be beaten!

INZA: And now that he is, you don't like him anymore?

JACK: Well, no, but we didn't think . . .

BRUCE: Where is he anyhow?

INZA: He left a few minutes ago.

BADGER: And he probably won't be back. I'm the hero of the school now! And I'm unbeatable! I challenge anybody, anybody to beat me!

(Enter FRANK MERRIWELL in his wild costume. Nobody recognizes him.)

FRANK MERRIWELL:(As FLOWER POWER) Groovy, baby! I mean I've seen some wild clothes but those little white shorts are the most!

JACK: What is it?

HARRY: How did it get in?

BART: Where did it come from?

BRUCE: Either a circus is in town or Greenwich Village just burned down!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Any of you cats seen the group?

INZA: Uh, exactly what group are you talking about?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Well, well now, among these squares is a lot of circles. Baby, I've been hired to come and play some crazy music here tonight!

(FRANK strums wildly on the guitar that is part of his costume. HE sings an insane song)

(SONG: THE WILD NEW BEAT!)

(There is no set music to the lyric. The actor should just improvise anything he feels)

Ohh, I'm doin' the wild new beat for you! Yeah! Yeah!

Ohh, I'm doin' the wild new beat for you! Yeah! Yeah!

Ohh, I'm doin' the wild new beat for you! Yeah! Yeah!

'Cause I'm doin' what you told me to, uh-huh!

So I'm doin' the wild new beat for you!

Ohh, I'm doin' the wild new beat for you! Yeah! Yeah!

Ohh, I'm doin' the wild new beat for you! Yeah! Yeah!

Ohh, I'm doin' the wild new beat

'Cause I gave up rock 'n' roll for you!

That's why, that's why

I'm doin' the wild new beat for you!

Ohh, I'm doin' the wild new beat for you! Yeah! Yeah!

Ohh, I'm doin' the wild new beat for you! Yeah! Yeah!



Ohh, I'm doin' the wild new beat  
'Cause I sold my soul for you!  
That's why I'm wretched, writhen, worried!  
That's why I'm tortured, torn  
And not feelin' too good at all . . . LOVER!  
Uh-huh, oh yeah, oh yeah, uh-huh!  
I'm doin', doin'  
The wild! Wild! Wild!  
The wild new beat for you! Yeah! Yeah!  
(The song ends) (ALL are amazed)

INZA: Uh, that was great, thank you.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Would you like to hear more?

INZA: Oh yes, but some other time. There is something known as too much of a good thing you know.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Yeah! You tell it like it is! What time is the dance? That's when I'll really wail!

INZA: I'm afraid you've come too early. The party's not for a few days.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Oh man! Wouldn't you know it?! I was on a trip. And I've landed too soon!

FRANK MERRIWELL: I was up there flying with Lucy in the Sky with diamonds, man!

BADGER: Huh?

FRANK MERRIWELL: What kind of place is this anyway?

HARRY: You don't know what this is?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Looks like a cage for wild animals.

BRUCE: It's a school.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Yeah, man, like I said—a cage for wild animals!

BADGER: Who're you calling animals?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Oh, not you, frriend.

BADGER: You'd better not be!

FRANK MERRIWELL: I wouldn't want to insult the animals.

BADGER: Buddy, you'd better apologize for that remark.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Don't bounce on me. I will, man, if you can prove this is a school by answering one question for me?

BADGER: What are you talking about? What kind of question?

FRANK MERRIWELL: How can you spell jackass with one letter?

BADGER: What? Don't be stupid; it can't be done.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Sure it can. When it is "U"!

(ALL the boys laugh at BADGER who is humiliated and angry.

FRANK goes on making fun of him)

You know, you remind me of a dream I had the other night while I was on my trip. I thought I died and went to the hot place, and the Old Boy was showing me around. He took me to a room where there was lots of things all dried and withered hanging from the ceiling. I asked him what they were. And he said they were fresh young schoolboys like you? They were too green to burn, so they'd been hung up to dry!

(ALL, except BADGER, laugh again)

BADGER: I'm not going to waste my time talking to you!

(BADGER starts to leave but FRANK blocks his way)

FRANK MERRIWELL: Say, listen! You standing there in your cute little white shorts sure look like a real athlete, an olympian! I'll just bet you I can out-jump and out-wrestle you!

BADGER: Get out of my way!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Not afraid of me are you?

BADGER: If you don't get out of the way, I'll throw you against the wall!

BART: (To FRANK) Say, pal, I don't know who you are but you'd better do as he says. Buck Badger is the best fighter in this school!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Badger? Is that your name?

BADGER: You've heard of me, huh?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Sure! A badger is a hairy, grey animal that lives in a hole in the ground!

BADGER: Why you!

(BADGER lunges at FRANK but, quick as a wink, FRANK turns him and sends him flying across the stage. BADGER is dazed)

JACK: Did you see that?

BRUCE: I don't believe it!

HARRY: Are you all right, Badger?

BADGER: (Shaken) I, I'd break that clown in half if it weren't for getting into a fight in school.

FRANK MERRIWELL: I don't want to fight! I want to jump and wrestle! We can do that without fighting.

JACK: Come on, Badger, show him! The man who defeated Frank Merriwell shouldn't refuse a challenge from a crazy hippie!

BADGER: Why should I accept? It's a waste of time! I can beat this weirdo without half trying!

FRANK MERRIWELL: You're just flapping your jaw, buddy! I hold the record for jumping in the whole of Greenwich Village! And no school-boy is going to beat me!

BRUCE: Go ahead, Badger, beat him like you beat Merriwell.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Who is this Merriwell they say you got the best of, man? He can't be much if you beat him. If you ever beat me at jumping or wrestling, I'd be so ashamed that I'd get a haircut! I don't know which one, but I'd get one of 'em cut.

BADGER: You don't know what you're talking about! How far can you jump?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Oh, about three hundred feet.

BADGER: You see, he hasn't any idea how far he can jump!

FRANK MERRIWELL: I know I can jump farther than you!

BADGER: Where's Merriwell? Here's someone for him to tackle. I'll bet the fellow can beat him!

JACK: If you think this joker can beat Frank, you must be afraid to take him on yourself.

HARRY: Right! If you don't give this guy a try, it will be plain you're afraid you'll lose some of the glory you won by beating Frank Merriwell!

FRANK MERRIWELL: (Going to Badger) Look, I'm sorry I scared you so.

BADGER: What?

FRANK MERRIWELL: I said I'm sorry I scared you.

BADGER: Scared me? How?

FRANK MERRIWELL: By throwing you across the room.

BADGER: Oh, go jump in a lake! I let you do that.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Did you? Honest? I'm surprised. I thought I did it all by my lonesome. I don't suppose you'd let me beat you at jumping?

BADGER: What's the matter with you? Why are you so eager to jump?



FRANK MERRIWELL: Because I'm the best! And I've heard you're good at it and I want to tackle the best

BADGER: Go away, you're bothering me!

BADGER: All right! We'll jump! It'll take the wind out of your sails in a hurry! Then I'll mop the earth with you just to teach you a lesson!  
(BADGER goes to the jumping mat and prepares)

JACK: (To FRANK) I'll loan you my sneakers. You'll never be able to jump with those boots on.

FRANK MERRIWELL: These boots? Why, these are the seven-league boots you read about in the fairy story. I'll fly in them!

(The BOYS go off to one side)

BRUCE: He's really crazy!

HARRY: Either he's a big fool—or he's sharp as a razor.

BART: He's a fool. I'd bet a million to one he doesn't jump over ten feet.

JACK: Maybe, but did you see the way he threw Badger across the gym?

BART: It was the biggest surprise Badger ever had.

BRUCE: I kind of wish he might give Badger another surprise for what he did to Frank.

BART: It'll never happen.

(FRANK is standing to one side near INZA)

INZA: (Whispering to FRANK) Do you hear what they're saying?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Yes. Maybe you're right after all.

INZA: Can you jump without sneakers?

FRANK MERRIWELL: I don't know. I never tried before.

BADGER: O.K. Everything's ready!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Go ahead. You jump and set me a line to go over.

BADGER: You made the talk, now you can lead off.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Crazy, man!

(FRANK pulls his hat down, adjusts his dark glasses and starts to get ready. He acts like he doesn't know what to do or which leg to start off with. Finally he starts. He gets a clumping start and then before he can jump he trips and falls flat on his face. All laugh)

JACK: The poor idiot.

(The BOYS pick FRANK up)

FRANK MERRIWELL: Say, did I fall or was I pushed?

BRUCE: Your feet got mixed up.

FRANK MERRIWELL: I thought somebody tripped me.

BADGER: You see? It's a waste of time. He's nothing but a big clown and anybody can outjump him.

FRANK MERRIWELL: You can talk after you beat me!

BADGER: All right, big mouth! You beat this!

(BADGER sets himself; then jumps as hard as he can)

JACK: Wow! Twenty feet! Fantastic!

BADGER: I think that settles the case.

(HE starts to exit) (FRANK goes to the mark)

BRUCE: Look, he's going to jump again!

BART: Look at him! He can't jump at all!

HARRY: There he goes!

JACK: My God!

BRUCE: He can't stop!

(MERRIWELL lands. His jump is magnificent! HE lands well ahead of BADGER'S mark)

JACK: Twenty-two feet eight and a half inches!

BART: He did it!

BRUCE: I don't believe it!

HARRY: What a jump! What a jumper!

BADGER: This, this isn't fair. There's something fishy going on. He must be a professional jumper or something!

INZA: Wearing clothes like that?

JACK: Anyway he's beaten you.

BADGER: And I beat Frank Merriwell!

FRANK MERRIWELL: (Going to BADGER) Hope you don't hold any hard feelings. It's all been in fun, so lay it on me, man. Give me five!

(FRANK holds out his hand to BADGER but BADGER draws back)

Man, we always give five where I come from—just to show there's no hard feelings. The cat that don't dig it is considered pretty cheap.

BADGER: Are you calling me cheap?

FRANK MERRIWELL: No—but that's what you'll be called if you don't give me five.

BADGER: Give you five? Sure I'll give you five! I'll give you five rolled in a fist right in your jaw!

(BADGER lunges at FRANK but FRANK easily dodges the blow and throws BADGER down. BADGER is dazed)

FRANK MERRIWELL: (Going to BADGER, helping him up) Say, man, I hope I didn't hurt you!

BADGER: Let go of me.

(HE struggles to his feet and stalks out of the room.

The OTHERS just stare at BADGER as he goes)

JACK: He's been done up by the hippie!

BART: Serves him right.

HARRY: Yeah!

BRUCE: I'm glad to see that big mouth get it.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Man! So that's the way a fellow's friends turn on him when he's down! I suppose Frank Merriwell's friends all went back on him when Badger got the best of him.

HARRY: (Guiltily) What makes you say that? His real friends would never go back on him—no matter what happens to him.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Ha! That sounds pretty good! But didn't you just turn your backs on the guy you were cheering and carrying on your shoulders not ten minutes ago?

BART: I guess so. But with Frank it was different. We, we all felt terrible to see him beaten by that lobster so we couldn't say a word to him, so we just kept away!

BRUCE: We didn't want him to see how badly we felt.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Well, how do you think he felt about it? Did you think of that? He must have thought you were down on him for being beat.

HARRY: That's so!

JACK: I've thought about that and I've decided to put myself straight with him!

BRUCE: Yeah! C'mon, let's go talk to him.

(The BOYS start to exit)

FRANK MERRIWELL: Hey! When you find him, bring him around! I'd



like to meet him. I'll show him how to get the best of Badger!

HARRY: Say, that's too funny! What kind of fellow do you think Frank Merriwell is? You show him? The idea is enough to make a horse laugh!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Is it? I don't know. Mr. Merriwell can't be much, or else he'd never let that Badger beat him.

JACK: You'd better let up. You're getting on dangerous ground!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Am I? Well, I guess not. I'm no fool—no matter where I'm from or how I dress. Badger took me for a fool, and he was the one that got fooled. I could take Merriwell faster than I took Badger!

BRUCE: You make me sick!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Why, I could take all of you and Frank Merriwell together! You school boys are a puny lot! Go on! Get Frank Merriwell! He's the one I want a crack at! I can handle him with one hand tied behind my back!

HARRY: You never saw the day you could!

BART: He'd make a monkey out of you!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Ha! A fellow that would let something like that Badger beat him ain't got no business with me. Better keep Frank Merriwell from me, if you don't want him hurt!

JACK: Let's find Frank! He'll show this punk!

BART: We'll separate. Find him and bring him to the gym.

HARRY: You wait right here, mister!

FRANK MERRIWELL: I'll be humming Frank Merriwell's funeral song!

JACK: Let's go!

(The BOYS run off in all directions)

FRANK MERRIWELL: (To INZA) Now, that's what I call sport!

INZA: Don't you think you were too hard on them?

FRANK MERRIWELL: No! Actually I only feel bad about Badger. Oh, he's conceited and he can be plenty unpleasant, but he's got a good heart and he's a fine athlete. The others deserve this!

INZA: What are you going to do now?

FRANK MERRIWELL: First, I'm going to get out of this costume, and then I'll wait until they find me.

(FRANK goes off. Enter BART HODGE)

BART: (To INZA) Nobody can find Frank anywhere! Do you think anything's happened to him?

INZA: Oh, I don't think so. What will you do if Frank is beaten by this hippie?

BART: It'll never happen.

INZA: He beat Badger and Badger did beat Frank. What if Frank loses again?

(Enter FRANK)

FRANK MERRIWELL: H'lo, Bart, glad to see you.

BART: Are you?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Of course I am. What makes you ask?

BART: I was afraid you wouldn't be.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Why?

BART: Because, because—well, you know what happened.

FRANK MERRIWELL: What do you mean?

BART: The business before.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Has that made any difference between us?

BART: No! But I acted bad.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Well, you didn't act just like I would've hoped.

BART: I know it! I'm sorry! I know what you must have thought of me, but I was all broken up. I didn't dream that Badger could beat you at anything. When he did, I was dumbfounded. I didn't realize what I was doing, and I never thought how it must have seemed to you. Did you think I'd turned on you?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Well, I couldn't understand your reaction.

BART: You must have felt like kicking me! But I was completely knocked out when that big braggart Badger got the best of you. How he did it I don't know. I still can't understand it! I'm sure you're just not in condition!

FRANK MERRIWELL: You're wrong about that.

BART: Then how did it happen?

FRANK MERRIWELL: He just beat me.

BART: But I had thought nobody living could do that!

FRANK MERRIWELL: And that's where you were foolish. You must have figured me as more than human.

BART: No, but you have always been a winner.

FRANK MERRIWELL: There comes a time when any man who has always been a winner meets with defeat.

BART: Well, if you were to be defeated at everything, I would stand by you. If you were disgraced, I wouldn't change. If you were convicted of a crime, I'd remain your friend.

(THEY shake hands)

(Enter JACK, HARRY, and BRUCE)

JACK: There he is! Frank, we've been looking for you!

BRUCE: We've got great news for you!

HARRY: It'll make you laugh your head off!

JACK: Badger is down in the dirt! He's been beaten at jumping and wrestling.

BRUCE: What's the matter? Doesn't that make you glad?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Who did it?

HARRY: The strangest looking guy you've ever seen!

JACK: And once you've put this fellow in his place, everything will be right again!

BRUCE: He says he wants to tackle you.

FRANK MERRIWELL: He must be looking for a soft thing after doing Badger a turn.

BRUCE: A soft thing? Is that what you call yourself?

FRANK MERRIWELL: Badger defeated me.

HARRY: Oh, that was a fluke! You can take this guy easy.

FRANK MERRIWELL: Do you think so?

HARRY: I know it!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Thank you. I'm glad somebody has confidence in me.

JACK: We all have confidence in you.

FRANK MERRIWELL: That's pleasant information, but what if I fail? I have been told that failure for me means the loss of my friends.

BRUCE: Whoever told you that is a fool! You have real friends here who will not go back on you if you fail at everything, and you can bank on that!

HARRY: That's right!



FRANK MERRIWELL: After I was beaten by Badger not a man came to me and told me that he felt sorry.

(The BOYS all fall silent and look at each other)

JACK: That's true. But, and I'm sure I can talk for the rest, we felt so rotten that we just couldn't bring ourselves to say anything to you. It seemed to us that you must feel pretty bad, and we'd make you feel worse by talking to you.

FRANK MERRIWELL: It's all right. I think this has been a good test of your friendship, and I'm satisfied with the result. You are still my friends!

(THEY all crowd around FRANK and shake hands)

HARRY: Now, if you can just beat that crazy, remarkable hippie, everything will be right again.

FRANK MERRIWELL: If your friend shows up, I'll see what I can do!

(Enter BUCK BADGER. HE is carrying FRANK's costume)

BADGER: Well, if he does show up, he won't be wearing any clothes!

(BADGER dumps the clothes on the middle of the stage)

JACK: It's the hippie's things!

BRUCE: And he was wearing a wig!

BADGER: That joker was a fake! He was a professional jumper and I'll bet money on it! Probably Merriwell brought him in here just to show me up!

BART: I don't get it.

FRANK MERRIWELL: (Taking the wig and dark glasses from BRUCE)  
Badger is right. I did bring him in here.

JACK: What?

BADGER: I knew it!

FRANK MERRIWELL: But he wasn't a professional. He was just a plain amateur. As a matter of fact—he was just a school boy like yourselves.

(FRANK pulls the wig on and puts on the dark glasses)

Groovy, baby! Any of you cats seen the group? I just been on a trip. And I've landed too soon!

BART: It was Frank all the time!

FRANK MERRIWELL: Men, I hope you'll forgive me. I was told that my friends would desert me if I was defeated at anything, and I decided to test you. I was defeated at jumping and wrestling by Buck Badger and I'm happy to say my friends finally proved true! I think I've shown that I'm still in the ring. And, Badger, I hope you especially will forgive me and join my circle of friends.

BADGER: (Taking FRANK's offered hand) Gladly, Merriwell. If I have to be second I'm satisfied that it's second to Frank Merriwell. And, after all, I will still be able to boast about the day I beat Frank Merriwell!

(The BOYS cheer as they stand around FRANK and BADGER. Then THEY lift FRANK to their shoulders and exit as the curtain falls)

---

WANTED — By Harry Castlemon

Pony Express Rider

Go-Ahead

Haunted Mine

Gilbert The Trapper (Capt. C. B. Ashley)

Virgil G. Jackson

94 West Water St.

Beaver Dam, Wis. 53916

## Garden City Publishing Company's Paperback Juveniles

By Bob Chenu

Back in 1926 the Garden City Publishing Company tried a brief venture into the field of publishing juvenile series books. In doing so they were closely allied with the Stratemeyer Syndicate, as their output consisted of Syndicate productions. The format adopted was a paperback one very similar to the thick Street & Smith format which we are familiar with from the Merriwells, for example. A very few titles were also published in hardcover, as I will mention in discussing a particular series.

This effort was launched in January of 1926, and was continued through that year and into the first few months of 1927, at which time it seems that it was given up completely. This would lead to the conclusion that the firm did not find this line profitable, and so decided to abort it short of planned output. It would seem to me that the firm had misjudged the market, as in this period the Street & Smith paperbacks were no longer at their peak of popularity, and the high point of hard cover juveniles was being reached.

One of the series published was **THE MOVIE BOYS**, by "Victor Appleton." This was a paperback edition of two G&D series, with the titles somewhat altered. **THE MOVING PICTURE BOYS** and **THE MOTION PICTURE CHUMS** series were combined into a 17 volume set. The publication dates run from January 2, 1926 through April 28, 1927 at a one per month rate of appearance. The 17 titles were:

The Movie Boys On Call, or Filming the Perils Of A Great City  
The Movie Boys In the Wild West, or Stirring Days Among the Cowboys and Indians  
The Movie Boys and the Wreckers, or Facing the Perils of the Deep  
The Movie Boys In the Jungle, or Lively Times Among the Wild Beasts  
The Movie Boys in Earthquake Land, or Filming Pictures and Strange Perils  
The Movie Boys and the Flood, or Perilous Days on the Mighty Mississippi  
The Movie Boys In Peril, or Strenuous Days Along the Panama Canal  
The Movie Boys Under the Sea, or The Treasure of the Lost Ship  
The Movie Boys Under Fire, or The Search For the Stolen Film  
The Movie Boys Under Uncle Sam, or Taking Pictures For the Army  
The Movie Boys First Showhouse, or Fighting For A Foothold in Fairlands  
The Movie Boys At Seaside Park, or The Rival Photo Houses of the Boardwalk  
The Movie Boys On Broadway, or The Mystery of the Missing Cash Box  
The Movie Boys Outdoor Exhibition, or The Film That Solved the Mystery  
The Movie Boys New Idea, or Getting the Best of Their Enemies  
The Movie Boys At the Big Fair, or The Greatest Film Ever Exhibited  
The Movie Boys War Spectacle, or The Film That Won the Prize

Another series which was more ambitious was **THE FRANK ALLEN SERIES**. These were a reprinting and continuation of **THE BOYS OF COLUMBIA HIGH SERIES**, which G&D had published. This was another Stratemeyer Syndicate series, authored by "Graham B. Forbes," which contained 8 volumes. The hero-in-chief of this series was named Frank Allen, and so his name was adopted as the series name for this effort. It also differed from **THE MOVIE BOYS SERIES** in that several completely new and original stories were added to what had previously existed. Another innovation was tried with this series in that some of the titles were published in a cloth bound hard cover edition about equivalent in quality to the G&D line. The cloth binding is khaki colored, with black lettering on front and spine. A boys head appears in a circle on the spine, and also centered under the title on the front, bordered by



various kinds of sporting equipment on each side.

A total of 17 titles was projected, and are listed on the back cover of the books. The first was published January 2, 1926, and again the publication was monthly. It is doubtful, however, that all 17 titles saw print. I have sought in vain to ascertain if the last 3 titles came out as planned. Inquiry directed to Doubleday, which is the successor to Garden City, elicited no response at all. The Stratemeyer Syndicate also did not respond to my inquiry. A Congressional inquiry to the Library of Congress resulted in their inquiry to Doubleday and a routine response merely listing the titles shown on the back covers, was received. Checking in CBI does not show the last 3 titles as published.

The titles as listed are:

Frank Allen's Schooldays, or The All Around Rivals of Columbia High  
Frank Allen Playing To Win, or The Boys of Columbia High on the Ice  
Frank Allen In Winter Sports, or Columbia High On Skates and Iceboats  
Frank Allen and His Rivals, or The Boys of Columbia High In Track Athletics  
Frank Allen—Pitcher, or The Boys of Columbia High on the Diamond  
Frank Allen—Head of the Crew, or The Boys of Columbia High on the River  
Frank Allen In Camp, or Columbia High and the School League Rivals  
Frank Allen At Rockspur Ranch, or The Old Cowboy's Secret  
Frank Allen At Gold Fork, or Locating the Lost Claim  
Frank Allen and His Motorboat, or Racing To Save a Life  
Frank Allen Captain of the Team, or The Boys of Columbia High on the Grid-iron  
Frank Allen At Old Moose Lake, or The Trail In the Snow  
Frank Allen At Zero Camp, or The Queer Old Man of the Hills  
Frank Allen Snowbound, or Fighting For Life In the Big Blizzard  
Frank Allen After Big Game, or With Guns and Snowshoes In the Rockies  
Frank Allen With the Circus, or The Old Ringmaster's Secret  
Frank Allen Pitching His Best, or The Baseball Rivals of Columbia

The 8 titles which contain "Columbia High" in the subtitles are the reprints of the original series. The others are completely new stories. The original 8 tales were reprinted only in paperback by Garden City, presumably because G&D had the rights to their hard cover production. There were 6 titles published in both hard cover and paperback by Garden City (Rockspur Ranch, Gold Fork, Motorboat, Old Moose Lake, Zero Camp, and Snowbound). This is verified by CBI.

Another major series published in paperback by Garden City was the Dave Fearless Series, by "Roy Rockwood." Again we have a Stratemeyer Syndicate series. This series also lists 17 titles, and again the first of them was published on January 2, 1926. The first 3 titles had been published in hard cover by other publishers, including Stitt, G&D, and Sully. Garden City originated the remainder. Again, it is very doubtful that the last two titles which they listed ever saw print. In his book, *THE GHOST OF THE HARDY BOYS*, Leslie MacFarlane writes of authoring some of the titles in this series for the Syndicate, specifically claiming to have written *Under the Ocean*, *In the Black Jungle*, *Near the South Pole*, and *On the Lost Brig*. The last two titles copyrighted were in January and February of 1927.

The titles of this series are:

Dave Fearless After A Sunken Treasure, or The Rival Ocean Divers  
Dave Fearless On A Floating Island, or The Cruise of the Treasure Ship  
Dave Fearless and the Cave of Mystery, or Adrift on the Pacific  
Dave Fearless Among the Icebergs, or The Secret of the Eskimo Igloo

Dave Fearless Wrecked Among Savages, or The Captives of the Head Hunters  
 Dave Fearless and His Big Raft, or Alone On the Broad Pacific  
 Dave Fearless On Volcano Island, or The Magic Cave of Blue Fire  
 Dave Fearless Captured By Apes, or In Gorilla Land  
 Dave Fearless and the Mutineers, or Prisoners On the Ship of Death  
 Dave Fearless Under the Ocean, or The Treasure of the Lost Submarine  
 Dave Fearless In the Black Jungle, or Lost Among the Cannibals  
 Dave Fearless Near the South Pole, or The Giant Whales of Snow Island  
 Dave Fearless Caught By Malay Pirates, or The Secret of Bamboo Island  
 Dave Fearless On the Ship of Mystery, or The Strange Hermit of Shark Cove  
 Dave Fearless On the Lost Brig, or Abandoned In the Big Hurricane  
 Dave Fearless At Whirlpool Point, or The Mystery of the Water Caves  
 Dave Fearless Among the Cannibals, or The Defense of the Hut in the Swamp

Another series reprinted in this paperback format was the LARRY DEXTER SERIES, by "Raymond Sperry." The first 6 titles were reprints of books published in hard cover by G&D and/or Sully in the period 1907-1915. Two new titles were added by Garden City with this paperback edition. The titles are:

Larry Dexter At the Big Floor, or The Perils Of A Reporter  
 Larry Dexter and the Land Swindlers, or Queer Adventures In A Great City  
 Larry Dexter and the Missing Millionaire, or The Great Search  
 Larry Dexter and the Bank Mystery, or Exciting Days In Wall Street  
 Larry Dexter and the Stolen Boy, or A Chase On the Great Lakes  
 Larry Dexter At the Battle Front, or A War Correspondent's Double Mission  
 Larry Dexter and the Ward Diamonds, or The Young Reporter At Sea Cliff  
 Larry Dexter's Great Chase, or The Young Reporter Across the Continent

Though Garden City published other titles in this paperback format during this experimental period in 1926-27 they were not boys books. The Nat Ridley Rapid Fire Detective Stories were on the order of the S&S Nick Carter detective series. Others listed in the back of ones that I have include Smashing Western and Sea Stories, 12 Famous Authors, Mystery and Detective Stories, and Three Boys Books. The latter are Caves Of Terror by Talbot Munday, The Oxbow Wizard by Theodore G. Roberts, and The Whaler, by Ben Ames Williams. From the brief advertising blurb describing each of these three I would doubt that they are really boys stories.

It would seem that the reason for having 17 titles in these series (or in most of them) arose from the start in January of 1926 and monthly publication of the added titles through April of 1927. Changed plans because of disappointing sales had the result of cutting short the FRANK ALLEN and DAVE FEARLESS series, and the end of production of this line of paperbacks. Though I have had no luck in seeking information about this venture, it seems to me that Garden City thought that the paperback line of S&S was worth copying, and that this proved to be untrue.

In any event, these books make an interesting sideline to the field of boys book collecting, and add some stories to a couple of the familiar series we collect in hard cover.

## WANTED — The Merriwell Series

(the thick paperbacks published by Street & Smith).

Reading and coverless copies accepted.



## SERIES OF SEA TALES

Dick &amp; Fitzgerald

Issued without numbering. Numbers are in the sequence advertised.

- (1) The Pirate Doctor; or, The Extraordinary Career of a New York Physician, by A Naval Officer
- (2) Garnelle; or, The Rover's Oath. Anonymous
- (3) The Yankee Privateer; or, The Traitor Merchant, by J. H. Ingraham
- (4) The Smuggler of St. Malo, by J. H. Ingraham
- (5) Paul Jones; or, The Son of the Sea. Anonymous
- (6) David Watson; the London Apprentice. A Romance of the Sea. Anonymous
- (7) Olph; or, The Pirate of the Shoals, by J. H. Ingraham
- (8) The Dancing Feather; or, The Pirate Schooner, by J. H. Ingraham
- (9) The White Cruiser; or, The Fate of the Unheard Of, by Ned Buntline
- (10) Josephine; or, The Maid of the Gulf, by J. H. Ingraham
- (11) The Pirate Chief; or, The Cutter of the Ocean, by J. H. Ingraham
- (12) Oloinois, the Buccaneer; or, The Pirates of America. Anonymous
- (13) Three Cutters and numerous other stories, by Captain Marryat

## RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

HORATIO ALGER HAD A LOSING COMBINATION, by Jim Bishop. Syndicated column appearing in many papers. This one taken from the Times Herald Record November 28, 1977. This article arouses me to anger. It is based on misinformation which is built upon by Bishop unmercifully. If a writer of Mr. Bishop's stature treats Alger in this manner, I can put little credence on other material written by him. (Sent in by Jack Dizer)

EDWARD EDSON LEE PUT UTICA (Illinois) ON THE MAP. From the column, Focus on LaSalle County, by Joan Hustis in the Daily Times, Ottawa, Ill., March 22, 1978. About Leo Edwards and his Jerry Todd stories and the locale of the stories. (Sent in by Jack Dizer)

EASTERNEER ILLUSTRATED UTICA'S BOOKS, COVERS. From the column, Focus on LaSalle County, by Joan Hustis in The Daily Times, Ottawa, Ill., March 29, 1978. About Bert Salg, the illustrator of most of Leo Edwards books. (Sent in by Jack Dizer)

WHAT OUR BOYS ARE READING. Scribner's Monthly, March 1878 (Vol. 15, No. 5). A scathing article attacking dime novels for their violence based upon the author's reading a very few of them. The quotes he uses bear out his conclusions, but the titles and authors are not referred to. I would very much would have liked to read the items he read to check him out, but it is impossible. (Sent in by Jack Bales)

## 600 BOOKS FOR SALE

Mostly boys'; also girls' and children's.

By the volume, set or bookcase

200 story papers, mags and dime novels — 20% off

251 Youths Companion 1877-1927 for \$45 postpaid.

Send stamp for either list.

Margaret Dahl

2133 Fox Ave.

Madison, Wis. 53711

## NEWS NOTES

Mrs. Alla T. Ford of 114 South Palmway, Lake Worth, Florida is still trying to sell house and book business. Seems an ideal spot to settle in retirement from the hustle and bustle of the north.

Your editor attended the Horatio Alger Society convention at Jacksonville, Illinois and had a great time. Got to meet many of the Alger Society members, most of whom are members of the Happy Hours Brotherhood. The Society has really come of age in the last few years. Maybe we could get a convention together, where HHB members could sell and swap dime novels and experiences in the collecting field.

Dave Andrews of Box 3, Andes, New York 13731 is looking for books by Kirk Munro. Dave would appreciate a list from anyone who has some to sell.

Leonard N. Beck, Curator of Special Collections at the Library of Congress announces that an exhibit titled "Aspects of America" will be on display during May and June. Among the items will be Malaeska, Seth Jones, and samplings of Buffalo Bill, Frank Merriwell and Nick Carter.

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## LETTERS

Dear Eddie:

Do you by any chance have any "American Boys" 1920-1930 or "Pictorial Reviews" 1912-1930 (magazines)?

Jack Schorr, 853 S. Lemon St., Anaheim, Calif. 92805

Dear Ed,

I was interested in Riordan's suggestion as to the importance of presentations in determining first editions (April issue, pp. 45-46) and his questioning whether they might be faked.

In my experience, dealers and collectors seem to regard "former owner's name" as a serious detriment to a book, unless of course there is some association with the author. There would be little incentive to fake a presentation except for a forgery of autograph value.

"Former owner's name" is often of interest to me. Who was the man who signed "George Beech, 15th Novr., 1862, Cincinnati" in a book published in Philadelphia in 1862. This was war time, but we are reminded that books were transported and sold even in the border country, despite the war. The book, if anyone cares, was by Thomas Buchanan Read, who had not yet written "Sheridan's Ride" because Sheridan had not yet made the ride.

Sincerely, Don Russell

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## BACK NUMBERS Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup

(Quite a few reprints, can't be helped.)

Have almost the complete set of Nos. 1 through 237, one or two missing, maybe none. You also get 2 indexes, dime novel catalogue, Pioneers and Scouts of the Old West, Birthday number and War Library list.

All for \$25.00. Can you beat it.

Ralph F. Cummings, 165 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.



## REVIEWS

By John T. Dizer, Jr.

**Children's Literature: A Historical and Contemporary Bibliography**, by Irving P. Leif, The Whitston Publishing Company, Troy, N. Y. 1977.

The introduction to this book states, "This bibliography bring together virtually all the literature about children's literature. It is hoped that this book will provide a useful service to many groups including literary researchers, book collectors, librarians, elementary school teachers and college and university professors."

If it hadn't aimed so high it wouldn't have fallen so low. Anyone who uses this book as the main source of information into childrens literature research is in real trouble. The author apparently has either no knowledge of or else no regard for publications such as Dime Novel Round-Up, Baum Bugle, Boys Book Collector, Alger Newsboy, etc. All of these magazines have the best of source material, particularly the Dime Novel Round-Up which has been published continually since Jan., 1931 or 47 years. There is no mention of Pachon, Rogers, Cox, or Chenu, as examples, which shows the depth of the author's ignorance. Adimari is referenced but the name is spelled two different ways, neither of them correct. I find neither Dunlap's book nor Kilgore's referenced tho one gives most pertinent history of Grosset and Dunlap and the other of Lee and Shepard (with particular reference to Optic and Alcott.) Annie Fellows Johnston is mixed up with A. M. Johnston. And so on. A major concern also is that the references selected are of very uneven accuracy and importance. A researcher would have no idea of the significance of any reference without a pretty solid background in the subject. I note also no references to the very solid work done by Prof. Dave Mitchell and his group at Albany State or the books by Francelia Butler at U. of Conn. in the **Children's Literature: The Great Excluded** series. I could continue indefinitely. There are many unusual and useful references in this book but, taken as a whole, it is simply not a complete and accurate bibliography of children's literature.

**The Girl Sleuth, A Feminist Guide** by Bobbie Ann Mason. The Feminist Press, 1975 is a very well done book. The author has done her homework and presents her material in proper context in an entertaining yet factual manner. There are some errors as well as gaps. When she says "at the turn of the century (after decades of Little Prudy and Elsie Dinsmore and Pollyanna) . . ." she is mixed up. Pollyanna was yet to appear and I suspect she was thinking of the Five Little Peppers who were almost equally dismally cheerful. By now the author probably knows that Edith Van Dyne was a pen name for a male, L. Frank Baum. She could also have delved deeper into the men who wrote girls series books. She discusses Ruth Fielding but apparently was not aware that W. Bert Foster was the contract writer for Stratemeyer for ten or so of the series. Howard Garis and Walter Karig were also apparently involved in the act, in other series. There is no reference to Annie Fellows Johnston and the **Little Colonel Series** and this I think is a major omission. However the book is mainly concerned with sleuthing of sorts and the Little Colonel did a lot of things but little sleuthing.

**CHANGES TO  
A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HARD-COVER BOYS' BOOKS—REVISED EDITION  
By Harry K. Hudson**

This is the second list of changes and corrections to the above bibliography

**Page 3. Adventure Series for Boys**

Add to Notes: The publisher also sometimes listed this series as "Sea Stories for Boys."

**Page 20. Baseball Joe Series**

Add: (1a) Exactly the same as (2), except four illustrations. The first ten volumes were definitely issued in this format, possibly eleven and twelve. It is possible that only thru volume twelve appeared in format (2).

**Page 35. Bomba, the Jungle Boy Series**

Add: (6) Grosset and Dunlap (First 10 titles—all published in 1953), **Standard size, type 8 binding, dull green-blue or green-gray, black lettering.** Front is plain except for a small picture, in black, of a boy in skin garment fighting a jaguar. Pictorial end papers. This format common to the entire group.

Illustrations: None

Dust Jacket: White coated paper, pictorial (P) in color, different for each book.

**Page 42. Boy Inventors Series**

Vol. 1 should be "Wireless Triumph," not "Wireless Telegraph." In some early listings the publisher incorrectly gave the title as "Telegraph." Later listings corrected the error.

**Page 68. Buddy Series**

Another item to blush over. Everyone knows that the initial publisher was Cupples & Leon, not Grosset & Dunlap. Just a slip of the pen, as it were.

**Page 114. Great Marvel Series**

Add: 1a. Same as (1), except type 1 binding, and dust jacket as described in (2).

**Page 142. Mel Martin Baseball Stories. Complete revised writeup as follows:**

COOPER, JOHN R. 6 Volumes 1947-1953

Baseball and mystery stories

TITLES (No sub-titles)

- |                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 1. The Mystery of the Ball Park | 1947 |
| 2. The Southpaw's Secret        | 1947 |
| 3. Phantom Homer                | 1952 |
| 4. First Base Jinx              | 1952 |
| 5. The Fighting Shortstop       | 1953 |
| 6. The College League Mystery   | 1953 |

PUBLISHER:(1) Cupples and Leon Co. (first two titles)

Standard size, type 7 binding, red, black lettering, plain, decorated endpapers. This format used for both books.

Illustrations: Frontispiece on plain paper

Artist: C. R. Schaare

Dust Jacket: White coated paper, red and blue background, pictorial (L), in colors. Front shows a pitcher; spine, a batter. This jacket used for both books.

(2) Garden City Publishing Co. (all titles)

(To be continued)



**NEW MEMBERS**

370. Robert E. Manners, 361 Chase St., Somerset, Mass. 02726  
 371. David Moulton, 2400 South Glebe Road, Apt. 621, Arlington, Va. 22206  
 372. L. Harding, 101 Pitt St., Portland, Maine 04103  
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